THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Land lines in rural areas of Bihar

1241. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that land lines of BSNL in rural areas of Katihar District, Bihar are not functioning properly; and

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years and the average time taken in their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Connections are working properly in rural areas of Katihar district, Bihar.

(b) Details of faults (year-wise) and average duration of fault clearance for the last three years are given below:

SI. No.	Year	No. of complaints	Average duration for clearance of fault
1	2004-05	5444	6.00 hrs
2	2005-06	6896	5.30 **hrs**
3	2006-07	7962	5.00 hrs

Allocation of surplus defence spectrum

1242. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spectrum required for mobile operators is under use by Defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his department proposes to get the surplus spectrum released from the Ministry of Defence;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) in what manner the surplus Defence spectrum would be allocated among the new operators and the existing mobile operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A part of the redio frequency spectrum required for mobile services is in use by Defence services.